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Midweek Memo

University Communications and Marketing

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11-11-2020

## Midweek Memo

Georgia Southern University

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**November 11, 2020**



**Proof that our faculty, staff  
students and alumni rock**

### **Alumna receives top honors in state for English Language teachers**

Double Eagle Claudia Martinez ('13, '16) was recently named the 2020 Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. Born in Tamaulipas, Mexico, Martinez was raised in Claxton, Georgia. She received legal residency at age eight but struggled at first to acclimate to an environment that had only a "handful of Spanish-speaking students." She continued to work hard, and thanks to the motivation of teachers and family, she became the first in her family to graduate from college.

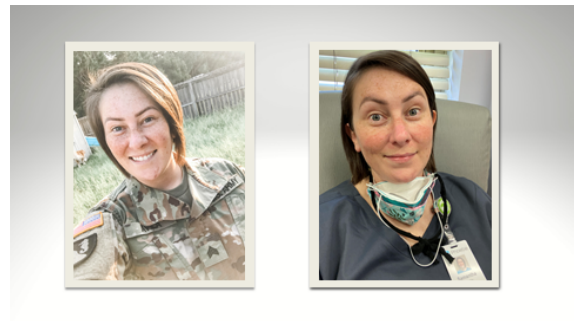
[Read more about Martinez and her award here.](#)



### **Georgia Southern Veteran Spotlight: Samantha Avila**

Samantha Avila is currently a student on the Georgia Southern Liberty Campus and a member of the Georgia National Guard. She is also a veteran of the United States Army.

With a strong commitment to service, Avila worked as a medic at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in



Albany, Georgia, earlier this year, which was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Department of Communication Arts to host virtual performance with multiple mediums

Theater students will explore the concept of touch and how physical interaction changed amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a multimedia performance streamed live via Zoom from Nov. 11 through Nov. 15. "Touch," which is directed by Professor of Theatre Lisa Abbott, was created entirely by the cast and production team of students and faculty and will include a collection of sketches, dances and songs that are a reflection of the cast's firsthand experience as they have navigated life in the world of COVID-19. The performance will look at what touch means in a world devoid of it.

[Learn more about the production here.](#)



## Visiting Chinese scholar returns home with knowledge for students with disabilities

When visiting Chinese scholar Xiaoying Jiang, Ph.D., arrived in Statesboro in March 2019 to partner with College of Education's Kymberly Harris, Ph.D., she never expected to face a pandemic that would extend her stay in the U.S. indefinitely. However, upon recent return home, she's using practices learned at Georgia Southern to help students with disabilities.

[Learn more about Jiang's journey here.](#)



# Remember

Consider this the string tied around your finger

## Complete TAP form by Friday

Faculty and staff who wish to apply for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the Spring 2021 Semester should do so by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13. All TAP applications should be submitted



electronically. Staff should attach their application and confirmation emails to a MyHelp ticket. Faculty application and confirmation emails should be submitted to Trina Smith at [tsmith@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:tsmith@georgiasouthern.edu).

Due to working remotely, supervisors can approve TAP applications via emails. Approval emails must be from a Georgia Southern email account.

[Click here for the full details on TAP.](#)



## University Cashier's Offices to close early Thanksgiving week

The University Cashier's Offices on the Armstrong and Statesboro campuses will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 25, to finalize financial tasks for the holiday break.

Please contact the Cashier's Offices at 912-478-0020 or 912-344-2960 with any questions.



## Be on the lookout for self-identification forms from Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX

Beginning Monday, Nov. 16, the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will request all faculty and staff to answer two quick but important questions regarding their status as a protected veteran and/or an individual with a disability. These forms will be available upon logging into your MyGeorgiaSouthern portal. Your answers will be maintained confidentially in a separate file from any personnel or benefits files.

This information is requested as part of Georgia Southern's compliance as a federal contractor.

**This entire message may not display in your email body. Remember to click "View entire message" at the bottom of your email screen.**





## Holiday Helper Tree back for 27th year of holiday giving

The Holiday Helper Tree, an annual tradition on the Statesboro Campus, has returned for the 27th year to encourage Eagle Nation to help others in need this holiday season.

Instead of pulling tags from a tree in the Russell Union like in years past, the 2020 Holiday Helper Tree is virtual and allows participants to pull a tag from anywhere.

[Click here to learn more about the Holiday Helper Tree and how you can participate.](#)



## Ethics Awareness Week continues through Friday

The University System of Georgia (USG) and Georgia Southern University are committed to an ethical culture. Ethics Awareness reminds employees of our commitment to an ethical culture and our shared ethical values and expectations. It also serves as a reminder of how we incorporate ethical decision-making in all we do and how we are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Ethics Awareness brings awareness to ethics, reinforces the principles of recognizing the hard work of employees and promotes our shared values.

[Learn more about Ethics Awareness Weeks events here.](#)



## Astounding freshman class growth, retention, increases Georgia Southern's fall enrollment by more than 3 percent

Official fall enrollment at Georgia Southern University rose by approximately 3.45% over 2019 thanks to a record-breaking class of first-year students. Also contributing is a post-consolidation record-high 79% retention rate from freshman to sophomore year.



Newly released figures from the University System of Georgia show Georgia Southern's official fall enrollment for 2020 was 26,949, an increase from the previous year's official total of 26,054.

[Learn more about fall enrollment here.](#)

## Staff Council food drive continues through the weekend

Georgia Southern University's Staff Council is hosting a food drive on the Statesboro, Armstrong and Liberty campuses through Nov. 15.

Non-perishable food items may be donated at one of the drop-off bin locations listed below. Donations will benefit the Statesboro Food Bank, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia Food Bank and the Liberty County Manna House Food Bank.

[Click here for a list of drop-off locations.](#)



## Be part of International Education Week!

The Office of International Student Admissions and Programs (ISAP) encourages students, staff and faculty to celebrate International Education Week Nov. 16 through Nov. 20 to honor the cultural richness and diversity of Georgia Southern.

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. As part of Georgia Southern's celebration, the ISAP is offering Hate Has No Home Here campaign stickers and posters available for pickup in Veazey and Gamble Halls.

[Click here for more information and a full list of IEW events.](#)

## Building a Better Tomorrow with Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville mayors

Promoting Inclusion in a Diverse Community:

## Building a Better Tomorrow



Thursday, Nov. 12  
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Mayors Van Johnson (Savannah),  
Allen Brown (Hinesville),  
Jonathan McCollar (Statesboro)

[GeorgiaSouthern.edu/OIEMayorForum](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/OIEMayorForum)

The Inclusive Excellence Faculty and Staff Fellows are excited to welcome the mayors of Hinesville, Savannah and Statesboro for a presentation and panel discussion on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. about diversity, equity and inclusion in Georgia Southern's home communities. Each mayor will discuss what inclusive excellence looks like in their respective municipalities and questions for the mayors will be taken from participants by a moderator.

Access the webinar by clicking [here](#).



## Volleyball takes on Troy, football faces Texas State

Volleyball hosts their final home series of the season this Thursday and Friday at Hanner Fieldhouse against Troy. Football continues Sun Belt play against Texas State for Celebrate Agriculture and Senior Day. Stay up to date with Eagle Nation and earn free gear and experiences through the GATA Rewards App. Visit [GSEagles.com/GATARewards](http://GSEagles.com/GATARewards) to download for free today.

Click [here](#) for a full list of athletics events.

### Network of Black Alumni Financial Workshop MANAGING YOUR BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS



**NOVEMBER 17**  
**6-7 P.M.**  
**ZOOM**

Armstrong alumnus Cassian Nuñez ('15) shares the keys to building your wealth and taking control of your own budget.

RSVP at [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni/NOBAWorkshop](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni/NOBAWorkshop)

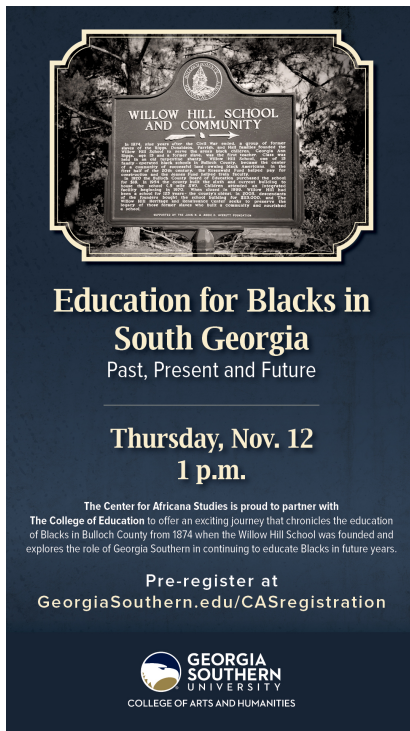
## NOBA Financial Workshop with alumnus Cassian Nuñez

Join Armstrong alumnus Cassian Nuñez ('15) on Nov. 17 for this important discussion on building your wealth and capitalizing on opportunities to increase your net worth. Whether you are looking for ways to increase your income, diversify your investments or even manage your budget better, this workshop will offer you the tools, resources and knowledge for your financial future.

Register for the workshop [here](#).

## Education for Blacks in South Georgia virtual presentation

The Center for Africana Studies is proud to partner with the College of Education to offer an exciting journey that chronicles the education of Blacks in Bulloch County from 1874 when the Willow Hill



School was founded and explores the role of Georgia Southern in continuing to educate Blacks in future years.

The webinar will take place via Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m.

Pre-register for the webinar [here](https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/CASregistration).



## Alumna Dennette Thornton to present at Southern Women Speaker Series

Dennette Thornton ('01), director of group sales and stadium tours/operations for Arthur M. Blank Sports and Entertainment, will be the next presenter in the Southern Women's Speaker series on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at noon via Zoom.

Thornton will speak on working in a male-dominated industry and offer ways that females can overcome obstacles and be successful.

[Click here for more information on the event.](#)

[More opportunities to experience Georgia Southern](#)

*You may have heard*

**News and other  
information going around**

**No Midweek Memo Nov. 25**



The Midweek Memo will not be sent on Nov. 25, which is the week of Thanksgiving break. The Memo will return to inboxes again on Wednesday, Dec. 2.



## **Military and Veteran Services recognize Marine Corps birthday**

On Nov. 10, members of the United States Marine Corps on the Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus came together to celebrate the 245th birthday of the Marines. Remarks were made by Patrick Poore, vice president for the Student Veterans of America Armstrong Chapter, as well as veteran Marine and Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship, Christopher Curtis, Ph.D.

The event also included a traditional cake-cutting ceremony where a current Marine cuts a cake with a sword and serves a piece to the oldest Marine in attendance. That Marine then passes a slice to the youngest Marine in attendance to signify the passing of knowledge and experience to a new generation of Marines.



## **Center for Irish Research and Teaching**



## In case you missed it

[Engineering Design Challenge held virtually after postponement from April](#)

[Eagle Dining Services Thanksgiving and winter break hours of operation](#)

[Ofstedahl picks up third career win, Eagles finish 6th at Mercer Invite](#)

[Montoya named to first team All-Sun Belt squad](#)

## Extra! Extra!

[Georgia Southern student's COVID-19-inspired art exhibit explores nonessential items of everyday life — WSAV](#)

[Georgia Southern joins First-Generation College Celebration this week — Savannah CEO](#)

[Chatham council Veteran of the Year Jimmy Ray sees military as 'growing-up time' — Savannah Morning News](#)

[Video storytelling, art projects connect young readers to literacy — Savannah Morning News](#)

[Georgia Southern athletes have schedule cleared for time to vote — Savannah Morning News](#)

[Georgia Southern celebrates homecoming with virtual parade, some in-person events — WSAV](#)

[Georgia Southern featured on Princeton Review list of green colleges for 10th consecutive year — All on Georgia](#)

[Chatham Co. officer honored with 'Officer of the Year' title by the Exchange Club of Savannah — WTOC](#)

*Have a story, event or achievement idea for inclusion in Your Midweek Memo? Submit ideas for consideration to [news@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:news@georgiasouthern.edu) by Mondays at noon.*

